



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

THE GREENLAND SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION.

The steamer *Portia*, carrying the members of this Expedition, left the pier at the foot of Joralemon Street, Brooklyn, at 1 o'clock P.M., on the 22d of June, for St. John's, Newfoundland.

The following letter, reprinted from the New York *Tribune*, gives the details of the organization so successfully carried out by Mrs. Peary:

To the Editor of the Tribune :

SIR: The steamship *Portia*, from Brooklyn to-morrow, will carry the members of the Greenland Scientific Expedition of 1895 to St. John's, N. F. Here they will board the steam barkentine *Kite*, Captain John Bartlett master, and will sail for Greenland about July 1. The expedition will be under the direction of my brother, Emil Diebitsch, of Washington, and the party will be composed of Professor Rollin D. Salisbury, of Chicago University; Professor L. L. Dyche, of the Kansas State University; Theodore Le Boutillier, of Philadelphia, and Dr. John E. Walsh, of Washington. The only passenger will be Echi-och-a, better known as Bill, the little Esquimau girl, who during the last winter has resided with me in Washington.

The expedition has two principal objects in view—first, to reach Anniversary Lodge, Bowdoin Bay, in North Greenland (lat. 77 degrees, 48 minutes), in order to communicate with Mr. Peary, his companion, Hugh J. Lee, of Meriden, Conn., and his faithful servant, Mathew Henson, of Philadelphia, and to enable them to return to the United States; second, to afford the scientists who accompany the expedition opportunities to study the geology and glaciers of the country, as well as the flora and fauna of the region to be visited. Special efforts will be made to secure specimens of the animals, more particularly the walrus, bear, seal and reindeer. At present no group of North Atlantic Walrus can be found in any of our museums.

To raise the funds necessary to fit out and equip the expedition has taken my entire time and attention during the last winter, as well as that of my brother, who has been my constant aid and counsellor. The work has been considerably lightened by the deep interest which the American Geographical Society, the American Museum of Natural History, the Philadelphia Geographical Club and Chicago University have taken in Mr. Peary's explorations.

These bodies have aided me in many ways, and their representatives form the personnel of the Greenland Scientific Expedition of 1895. But of all those to whom I am indebted for help in this, my cause, none have earned a greater share of my gratitude than those individuals who, inexhaustible in resources and tireless in energy, have given their time, their money and their influence to the project and have honestly declined to have their names brought forward in connection with its fulfilment. When I ventured into the lecture field for the purpose of augmenting the slowly increasing fund, I was immediately taken under the protecting wings of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and the National Geographic Society of Washington, and I feel that my success on the platform was largely due to their influence and help.

The parties most directly interested in the success of this expedition are too well known to need more than the briefest mention. Mr. Peary, after his successful journey to Independence Bay, on the hitherto unknown coast of Greenland, in the spring of 1892, conceived the idea of mapping the entire northern coast from Victoria Inlet to Cape Bismarck, and, if possible, to determine and delineate the detached land masses which he saw lying to the north of him. With this object in view, he organized the expedition of 1893-94, with the avowed purpose of staying two years in Greenland, should it require that length of time to complete his work. In the spring of 1894 he was driven back from the ice-cap by unusual storms, and, retreating in good order, returned to headquarters, determined to make another attempt in the spring of 1895.

Upon calling for volunteers to remain another winter in Greenland, one man stepped to the front—Hugh J. Lee, of Meriden, Conn.—“bravest of the brave!” Napoleon would have had him in the Old Guard! The bright picture which his vivid imagination had painted of Arctic life and Arctic adventures when far away in the States in the warm lecture-room had been dimmed by fierce storms and bitter cold; the darkness of the long night had created shadows where before was sunshine, and the whole scene had changed from one of imaginary glory to one of stern reality, and yet he was ready to go through it all again.

This young hero is a native of Malden, Mass., and before coming north was superintendent of the Boys' Club, of Meriden, Conn., of which city his father, O. D. Lee, is a resident. He was for several years a pupil, though not a graduate, of the Meriden High School, and has two brothers older, and a brother and sister younger than himself. “Imagine,” says Mr. Bridgman, the historian of the Peary Auxiliary Expedition of 1894, “a dark, almost swarthy, black-haired, blue-eyed, 170-pound young man, 5 feet 7 inches high, and you will have in your mind's eye Hugh Lee, of whom it is no rash prediction that the world in general, and Arctic exploration circles in particular, will yet hear a good deal more.”

Mathew Henson, Mr. Peary's faithful servant, is a colored man, twenty-six years old. He was with Mr. Peary in Nicaragua, and was also on the Arctic expedition of 1891-92. He is strong, active, intelligent and willing, and has demonstrated his ability to withstand cold and privation as well, if not better, than some of the white members of the expedition.

In order to bring these three brave men home I have chartered the steam barkentine *Kite*, 190 tons net, and have secured Captain John Bartlett as her master. The *Kite* is a stanch, snug little craft, well adapted for ice work. She carried us north in the summer of '91 and brought us back in the fall of '92. Only 117 feet long and 26 feet abeam, sheathed with live heart, her bows solid and strapped with iron, she is compact and strong. The engine is a vertical one, of fifty horse-power, placed well aft, thus insuring a short crank shaft for the propeller. This lessens the liability to breakage, while there is less friction and consequently greater speed than in many vessels of higher power. The *Kite* draws only twelve feet of water, and answers her helm quickly, and steams about seven knots per hour, all of which are desirable properties in a region where unknown reefs thrust themselves upon you, great icebergs loom up suddenly out of the fog, and the magnetic needle pointeth where it listeth.

Of the *Kite's* master all that need be said is that he is a member of the Bartlett family—a name known for generations among the greatest seafaring people in the world—the Newfoundlanders. Captain John Bartlett is a nephew of the Captain Bartlett who rescued the *Polaris* party from their dangerous position on the ice-floe

He is a brother of the gallant but ill-fated Henry Bartlett, who commanded the *Falcon* in her trips to North Greenland, and who, together with that ship and its brave crew, went down in the storms of last October, on the way from Philadelphia to St. John's. Captain Bartlett is a skilful mariner, who has been "to the ice" every year since he was old enough to haul a rope.

The leader of the expedition, my brother, Emil Diebitsch, in addition to the interest which he would naturally take in the success of Mr. Peary's plans, is well adapted for the work in hand. He is a graduate in civil engineering from Lehigh University, and in the pursuit of his profession has gained valuable experience for just such work as this. In 1887-88 he crossed Nicaragua from ocean to ocean on the line of the Nicaragua Canal, living in the jungle for the greater part of the year. From 1891 to 1894 he was stationed at the United States Naval Station, Port Royal, S. C. When the hurricane and tidal wave of August, 1893, swept over the Carolina coast, he was absent from the station, but immediately hastened to the scene of disaster. The last twenty-five miles of the journey were made on foot through a storm-wasted country. By swimming the bridgeless streams, he managed to report for duty the day after the hurricane, being the first person to bring news from the outside world to the storm-wrecked people. For this he received the official thanks of the Navy Department. Mr. Diebitsch is an active, energetic man, of cool judgment and resolute will. He was a member of the Peary Auxiliary Expedition of 1894, and is therefore acquainted with the region which he is to visit. He has some knowledge of astronomy and navigation, and possesses the complete confidence of both Mr. Peary and myself.

Rollin D. Salisbury, professor of geographic geology in the University of Chicago, geologist in charge of the surface geology of New Jersey, has done much work in glacial and geographic geology, both in the United States and in Germany. Before going to the University of Chicago, Professor Salisbury was connected with the State University of Wisconsin, and still earlier with Beloit College, his alma mater. In addition to holding a professorship in the University of Chicago, he is also dean of the University College in that institution. Professor Salisbury has published many papers and reports on geological subjects, which have appeared in the various geological journals of America and in the publications of the National and New Jersey Surveys. Physically he is a man of splendid proportions, strong and vigorous. He is about thirty-five years of age, and will devote his attention principally to the glaciers, though little of geological importance will escape his alert and scientific eye.

Professor Salisbury is a colleague of Professor T. C. Chamberlain, of the University of Chicago, the geologist of the Peary Auxiliary Expedition of 1894, and his work this summer, together with that of Professor Chamberlain of last year, will make a most exhaustive study of Greenland glaciers, which would in itself warrant the sending of an expedition to the north.

Lewis Lindsay Dyche, professor of zoology, taxidermist and curator of mammals and birds, State University, Lawrence, Kan., is a most enthusiastic and successful collector and naturalist. At the World's Fair in Chicago he received the highest prize for the best exhibit of North American mammals. Professor Dyche was a member of Dr. Cook's Arctic excursion on the ill-fated *Miranda*, and, despite the many mishaps which befell the party, he managed to collect about five hundred animals, some of which were new species, and all of which were abandoned with the *Miranda*. Nothing daunted, Professor Dyche left Gloucester, Mass., on May 15 last on a fishing schooner bound for South Greenland, where he is now, collecting specimens. About July 10 the *Kite* will pick him up at Holsteinborg, and carry him north

with the expedition. Here he will have charge of the collections for the American Museum of Natural History.

Theodore Le Boutillier is the representative of the Philadelphia Geographical Club, one of Mr. Peary's staunchest supporters, and a club which, either as an organization or through its individual members, has always contributed generously toward the Peary expeditions. It was under the auspices of the Philadelphia Club that the Peary Auxiliary Expedition of 1894, with Henry G. Bryant in charge, made its successful journey to North Greenland in a season of unusual severity, which proved disastrous to Cook, Wellman and perhaps Jackson. Mr. Le Boutillier is a student of the University of Pennsylvania, originally in the arts department, but now a student of medicine. He is a son of Robert Le Boutillier, of Homer Le Boutillier & Co., of Philadelphia, and has accompanied Professor Heilprin on several expeditions, notably to the Bermuda Islands in 1894. Professor Heilprin describes him as "a most expert collector."

Dr. John E. Walsh, the surgeon of the expedition, is a Washingtonian by birth and education. He is about thirty years old, was for two years lecturer on histology and pathology at the National Medical College, and for some time house surgeon in charge of the Washington Asylum Hospital. When small-pox was raging in Washington last year he was employed as inspector by the Health Office, and did most excellent work, displaying courage, judgment and ability in a very trying position. Dr. Walsh is a member of the American Medical Association of the District of Columbia and various other medical societies. He has contributed numerous articles on medical topics to various medical journals.

Through the thoughtfulness of Messrs. McKay and Dix, ship brokers, I am in receipt of the following encouraging news:

"The steamer *Trax II* arrived at Copenhagen, May 13, from Ivigtut, Greenland, which place she left April 28."

The superintendent of the cryolite mines reports as follows:

"The winter at Ivigtut has been very mild, so that it was possible to work in the open mines until January 10, when the winter commenced, but without severe frost."

"We believe this season will form an exceptional one in the Arctic, and it will be possible for a ship to reach Whale Sound without much difficulty. The winter was so mild the ice did not solder, and was constantly moving south, hence its early appearance (February 22) along the southwestern coast of Greenland."

"Our ships have been trading to Ivigtut for the past eighteen years, and the mild winter and early appearance of the ice on the coast is a rare exception."

This would indicate an open season this summer, and it is to be hoped that the *Kite* will have little trouble in crossing Melville Bay. Her itinerary is about as follows:

Leave St. John's about July 1; reach Holsteinborg July 7 or 8, and pick up Professor Dyche; Godhavn about July 12, where a week will be spent among the glaciers. Leaving Godhavn about July 20, she should reach Inglefield Gulf and the Peary headquarters about July 27. Mr. Peary promised to be at the lodge not later than August 15. This interim will give the scientists an opportunity to make their studies and collections, which will be continued even after Mr. Peary's return until the end of August. Leaving Inglefield Gulf at the end of August, the *Kite* will steam slowly homeward, stopping at Cape York to take on the "ironstone," and at one or two of the Danish settlements, and reaching St. John's about October 1, where I shall await the arrival of the wanderers.

JOSEPHINE DIEBITSCH-PEARY.

WASHINGTON, June 21, 1895.

The following telegrams appeared in the *New York Times* of June 29 and the *Tribune* of July 9 :

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., June 27.—The steamer *Portia* arrived to-night, bringing Messrs. Diebitsch, Salisbury, Walsh, and Le Boutillier, composing the Peary relief and Greenland scientific expedition. They expect to sail hence Monday or Tuesday, by steamer *Kite*. Considerable ice is reported north.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., June 28.—The Peary relief expedition will not be able to sail hence before July 6. The steamer *Kite*, which will take the expedition to Greenland, cannot be made ready for the voyage before that date.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., July 8.—Work upon the Peary expedition's steamer *Kite* is being continued rapidly. She is expected to sail to-morrow evening for Greenland.

Professor Salisbury, a member of the expedition, has just returned from an exploring trip through the interior of the island. He has acquired a large amount of information concerning the geology of the island, especially of the glacial period here.